

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 has been amended. Claim 7 was cancelled in a prior response. The Examiner states that claims 3 and 4 are withdrawn from consideration but has not stated any basis for this action.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second paragraph as being indefinite because the term “the securing of the planar object” lacked antecedent basis. The applicant submits that this rejection was directed towards claim 2 since securing of the planar object is not a limitation of claim 1. The applicant has amended claim 2 to correct the error by changing the claim to recite the step of securing the planar object as a separate step.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 2,806,492 to Becker in view of US Patent No. 4,593,893 to Sutter and US Patent No. 5,584,217 to Satori.

The Examiner argues that Becker discloses the claim limitation, “applying a decorative pattern to the planar object.” Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly describe the invention. The limitation “applying a decorating pattern” has been changed to “applying a decorating pattern laminate.” The decorating pattern laminate limitation is disclosed by the application at page 1, lines 10-14. Rather than applying a decorating pattern laminate, Becker discloses the projection of indicator markings onto the workpiece using a light. (Becker, Col. 1, line 54-Col. 2, line 23, Col. 2, line 68-Col. 3, line 35.) Thus, the marking on the object created by Becker is a light marking rather than any sort of mark that is physically attached to the object. The applicant also submits that this limitation is not disclosed by Sutter or Satori.

The claim limitation of moving the adjustment table over the base has also been amended to add the limitation that the adjustable table is moved with a servo motor controlled by the optical reader. The servo motor controlled by the optical reader limitation is disclosed by the application at page 6, lines 21-25.

The Examiner argues that Suter discloses an optical reader. However, the optical reader disclosed in Suter is a mechanism for reading codes printed on paper forms being processed by the machine. (Suter, Col. 3, lines 58 – Col. 4, line 4.) The applicant submits that the optical reader disclosed by Suter is used for a completely different purpose than the claimed optical reader. In particular, Suter does not disclose a servo motor that controlled by the optical reader that moves the adjustment table over the base until the optical reader locates the alignment line.

Because all limitations of claim 1 are not disclosed by the cited reference, the applicant submits that claim 1 as amended is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Becker in view of Sutter and Satori.

Claim 2 was amended to correct the antecedent basis error. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, the applicant submits that claim 2 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Becker in view of Sutter and Satori.

Claim 3 was amended to add the limitation that the adjustment table is moved over the base by at least one servo motor and the at least one servo motor is controlled by an optical reader. Claim 3 was also amended to add the limitation that the alignment line is formed on a laminate attached to the plate. As discussed above in claim 1, the applicant submits that the cited prior art does not disclose a servo motor controlled by the optical reader or an alignment line formed on a laminate attached to the plate. For these reasons, the applicant submits that claim 3 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Becker in view of Sutter and Satori.

Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 3, the applicant submits that claim 4 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Becker in view of Suter and Satori.

Claim 5 was amended to more accurately describe the invention. The term, “alignment line” was change to “alignment line marking” to more accurately describe the alignment line as a marking applied to the object. The applicant submits that Becker discloses a light that that is shined onto a planar object. Because the light projected is not a marking applied to the object, the applicant submits that the cited prior art references do not disclose applying an alignment line marking to the planar object. The applicant has also amended claim 5 to add the limitation that the adjustment table is movably coupled to the base with a servo motor that is controlled by the

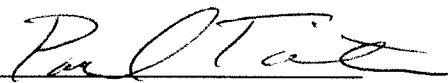
optical reader. As discussed above in claim 1, the cited prior art including Suter does not disclose a servo motor that is controlled by an optical reader. Because all limitations are not disclosed by the cited prior art, the applicant submits that claim 5 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Becker in view of Suter and Satori.

Claims 6 and 8-12 depend from claim 5. For the same reasons discussed in claim 5, the applicant submits that claims 6 and 8-12 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Becker in view of Sutter and Satori.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned collect at (415) 705-6377 if there are any outstanding issues or questions which can be resolved to allow this application to be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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